

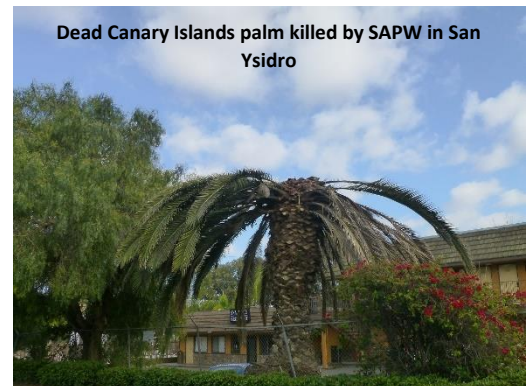
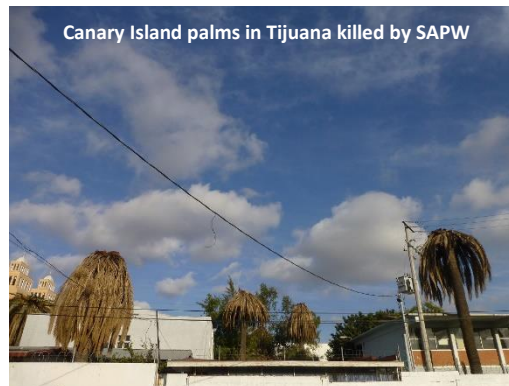
Final Report for the South American Palm Weevil Meeting

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The South American palm weevil (SAPW), *Rhynchophorus palmarum* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) is a serious palm pest in its native range, Mexico, Central and South America. It is highly likely that SAPW has established permanent populations in southern San Diego County in an area that ranges, at least, from San Ysidro to Chula Vista. This invasive weevil presents a significant new threat to date and ornamental palm producers, managers of wilderness, tourist, and recreational areas, and home owners. In addition to causing direct palm mortality, SAPW vectors a plant pathogenic nematode, red ring nematode, *Bursaphelenchus cocophilus*, that can also kill palms.



Funding from this agency supported a one day meeting held on **26 October 2016** at the [Sweetwater Summit Community Building](#) in Bonita San Diego County, ~ 5 miles from the Sweetwater Reserve, a major site of SAPW infestation.

Funding Outcomes

Several outcomes were achieved from this one day meeting which was **attended by approximately 125 people**:

(1) Educate Stakeholders: One of the goals of this meeting was to inform as many stakeholders as possible about this new pest and what can likely be expected within the next few years as it continues to spread. The one day meeting was very well attended, approximately 125 people registered and participated in the meeting and the post-meeting field trip in the afternoon to observe infested palms in the nearby Sweetwater Reserve. The goal of increasing participant knowledge was met via talks given by five speakers: (A) Don Hodel (UCCE) on the importance of palms in the southern California landscape and factors affecting their health. (B) Mark Hoddle (UCR) provided an overview of palm weevil biology and invasion of SAPW into

southern California. Hoddle ran the afternoon field trip to the Sweetwater Reserve to explain more about the symptoms of infested palms, and monitoring and control options. (C) John Kabashima (UCCE) covered the successful eradication of a related palm weevil, *R. vulneratus*, from Laguna Beach and the lessons learned from this program. (4) Jason Leathers (CDFA) covered the trapping and monitoring programs for palm weevil detection programs. (5) Nick Condos (CDFA) covered regulatory responses to new pest invasions. (6) David Pegos (CDFA) worked up a list of research and extension needs based on audience feedback on the material that had been covered.

All of these talks and the field trip have been digitally recorded and are available for viewing at:

http://cizr.ucr.edu/palm_weevil_sym

A web site to report findings of infested palms was developed

http://cizr.ucr.edu/palmarum_survey.html

The meeting was well covered by local newspaper, T.V., and radio stations in San Diego County. Reporters interviewed speakers and meeting participants about this invasive pest.

Captions for the photo plate below on page 3: (A) the meeting audience at the Summit House, (B) meeting participants placing colored stickers indicating priority next to action items that were drawn up by meeting attendees, (C) Mark Hoddle explaining symptoms of the early stages of a SAPW attack on the Canary Islands date palm in the background, (D) Mark Hoddle answering questions from meeting participants on the dying Canary Islands date palm in the background at the Sweetwater Reserve, (E) meeting participants discussing aspects of palm mortality observed at the Sweetwater Reserve, (F) a meeting participant examining a dead palm frond for SAPW tunnels and pupal cocoons at the Sweetwater Reserve.



(2) Facilitate Collaborative Efforts: The meeting has been extremely important for developing collaborative efforts amongst interested and affected parties. For example, the meeting has resulted in excellent lines of communication between arborists and landscape managers in San Diego County with the Hoddle Lab which has resulted in the reporting of new finds, data on palm removals, and access to live weevils from infested palms that can be used for experiments. Additionally, contacts between AZ and CA palm researchers have been significantly strengthened and the result has been at least one face-to-face meeting with AZ and California researchers (31 Jan. 2016 at UCR) to discuss palm weevil (and other palm pests) threats to commercial palm production, especially dates, in the southwest USA. Additionally, the meeting acted as a catalyst for the procurement of Farm Bill Funding for SAPW trapping/monitoring. As momentum on SAPW builds and interstate relationships continue to develop we anticipate being able to apply for multistate grants to work on this pest, especially with respect to management programs in ornamental and date production.

(3) Develop Resource Materials: Significant materials were developed from the meeting and all of these have posted on line for ongoing access

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(4) Reinforcing Commitment to Managing the SAPW Invasion: The meeting was instrumental in cementing the role of various agencies that are involved the Palm Pest Working Group (spearheaded by the CDFA; David Pegos) whose work is coordinated by the CDFA (this group has county, state and UC members as well as palm weevils expert outside of California (e.g., Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis, University of Florida). We expect this working group to remain active as SAPW spreads and its impacts become more pronounced. The working group will be important for pushing funding/granting initiatives. Conference calls organized by CDFA have been very useful in getting working group members together and setting priorities for moving forward. One tangible outcome from Objective 4 was the recent submission to Western IPM of a grant soliciting support for a large outreach and extension effort on SAPW in southern California. This probably would not have happened if this meeting had not been supported.